

AL-1926  
C.2

# Little Bow Project Newsletter

Spring 2002

Issue 9

## Project Highlights

- Clear Lake Canal completed in 2000 and diversion commenced in 2001
- Low level outlet completed in 2000
- Auxiliary spillway completed in 2001
- Hwy 529 subgrade relocation completed 2001
- Dam embankment constructed to two thirds height in 2001 with completion in 2002
- Mitigation work to proceed on the Upper Little Bow above the reservoir in fall of 2002
- Service spillway tender awarded to Top Notch Construction Ltd. with work to be completed by November 2002
- Little Bow Canal upgrade and diversion structure replacement with fish screens to commence in the summer of 2002
- Town of Vulcan water intake to be replaced in 2002

## Little Bow River Dam Construction Site



## Construction Update

### • Dam and Spillways

Top Notch Construction was the low bidder on the dam embankment, auxiliary spillway and service spillway. Work on the auxiliary spillway is complete and construction is progressing on the dam embankment. The target construction height for 2001 of 16 metres has been exceeded. The remainder of the earth embankment will be completed in the summer of 2002, taking the dam to a height of approximately 25 metres. Work on the service spillway was tendered early in 2002 and construction will be completed in the fall of 2002.

The low level outlet was completed in 2000. When construction of the dam is complete, gates on the outlet will restrict the outflow and allow the reservoir to fill in the spring of 2003.

### • Roads

Reconstruction of Hwy 529 subgrade below the dam is part of the dam construction contract and was completed in 2001.

CEE GEE Construction Ltd. of Medicine Hat reconstructed Hwy 529 for 16 kilometres west of the reservoir to Hwy 2 under the Provincial Secondary Highway Program. This will remain a gravel surface until the Little Bow Project is completed. Hard surfacing is scheduled for 2003.

Upgrade of RR 263 between Hwy 529 and the Parkland Road (old Hwy 529) was tendered by the M.D. of Willow  
(over)



Creek. Top Notch Construction Ltd. was the low bidder and the road and culvert crossing has been completed.

The County of Vulcan, under agreement with Alberta Transportation, completed the upgrading and surfacing of the Airport Road for seven miles north of Hwy 529, and then west for five miles to connect to Hwy 533. This work was part of the mitigation for loss of the existing Hwy 529 through the reservoir. The County has also completed the upgrading and surfacing of the Airport Road extension north to the Hwy 533 intersection.

## Recreational Concepts

As part of the mitigation for the Little Bow Project, Alberta Transportation must provide safe and controlled access to the reservoir.

Open houses were held on Jan. 16 and 17, 2001 to obtain community input into the recreational concepts. Preliminary options were reviewed and a further open house was held on March 13, 2002 to further define the recreational concepts at the damsite.

## Area Structure Plan (ASP)

Condition #23 of the Natural Resources Conservation Board approval requires the preparation of an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the lands in the immediate vicinity of the Little Bow River Reservoir. Questionnaires were circulated by the Oldman River Inter-municipal Service Agency and open houses were held in January and September 2001 and March 2002. Information gathered is now being incorporated into the Area Structure Plan, which was reviewed by the Little Bow Public Advisory Landowner/Land Use Sub-Committee #1, prior to introduction for first reading as a bylaw by the M.D. of Willow Creek and Vulcan County. As the reservoir is located both in the M.D. and County, the document is referred to as an Inter-Municipal Plan.

## Relocation of the Town of Vulcan Water Intake

Tender documents have been completed for the relocation of the water intake for the Town of Vulcan. The existing intake will be within the reservoir area. Construction will be completed in 2002.

## Upper Little Bow River Mitigation

Mack, Slack & Associates Inc. in conjunction with Chinook Environmental Resources are assessing the impacts of increasing the water diversion from 100 to 300 cfs in the Little Bow River above the reservoir. Overview reports were released in February 2002 and reports outlining specific impacts and proposed mitigation have been compiled and are being distributed to individual landowners.

## Clear Lake Component

The Clear Lake diversion is complete and has been turned over to Alberta Environment for operation. In 2001, the lake was filled to the minimum level of 964.5 metres elevation. If water is available, the lake will reach full supply level this year.

## Information Office Opens in High River

In preparation for reconstruction of the Little Bow Canal in High River and mitigation along the Upper Little Bow River, Alberta Transportation Civil Projects Branch has opened an information office in High River at #5, 28-12 Avenue S.E., High River, Alberta.

The office is open for people to drop in from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. If these hours are not convenient, please call for an appointment. The office is available for meetings and consultation with staff throughout the week.

Telephone: 403-652-8323 or  
403-652-8322  
Fax: 403-652-8356



Room 228, 909-3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
Lethbridge, AB. T1H 0H5

- John Carlson (Tel): 403-382-4376
- Charlie Murphy (Tel): 403-382-4366  
or (Fax): 403-381-5742

On Tuesdays contact the Champion  
Information office at 403-897-3002.

On Thursdays contact the High River  
Information Office at #5, 28-12 Avenue  
SE, High River, AB.

- John Carlson (Tel): 403-652-8323
- Charlie Murphy (Tel): 403-652-8322  
or (Fax): 403-652-8356